

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-18 are rejected by this Office Action. Applicants are canceling claim 18 and is adding claim 19 with this response. Applicants previously filed a preliminary amendment to amend the title to "A Goal Based System Utilzing a Spreadsheet and Table Based Architecture".

This Office Action acknowledges Applicant's claim for priority based on US Application No. 09/218,726 filed on December 22, 1998.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants have filed a second IDS on May 4, 2004. The IDS contains the dates of publication for all submitted references and thus addresses the objections of the Office Action.

Drawings

The Office Action notes that item 234 is missing from Fig. 2. Applicants have amended the specification (page 3, line 40) to delete reference to item 234. Consequently, Figure 2 is not being modified.

Specification

Applicants have amended the paragraph from page 3, line 32 to page 4, line 4 so that all references to item 230 refer to "System Dynamics Engine," the reference to item 250 refers to "System Dynamics Model," the reference to item 270 refers to "Intelligent Coaching Agent," and the reference to item 240 refers to "Simulation Engine." The amendments are consistent with what are shown in Figure 2. Also, reference to item 234 has been deleted because Figure 2 does not show item 234.

Applicants have amended the paragraph from page 4, line 5 to page 4, line 12 so that the reference to item 242 refers to "Deliver Feedback" and the reference to item 238 refers to "Inputs Outputs." The amendments are consistent with what are shown in Figure 2.

Other Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended claim 1 to delete "the steps of" and has amended claims 2-9 to delete "the step of". These amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed.

Applicants have amended claims 11-17 to replace “An apparatus” with “The apparatus” because there is a proper antecedent basis.

Claim Objections

Claims 17 and 18 are objected to because claim 18 is a duplicate of claim 17. Applicants have cancelled claim 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §101

Claim 1-9 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory material. The Office Action states that if claim 1 were amended to recite a “computer-implemented method”, claim 1 would be statutory in most cases. Applicants have amended claim 1 to replace “method” with “computer-implemented method”. Thus, Applicants request reconsideration of claim 1. In order to be consistent with claim 1, Applicants have amended dependent claims 2-9 to replace “A method” with “The computer-implemented method”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,727,161 (Purcell) in view of W.I.P.O. International Publication No. WO 97/44766 A1 (Cook). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the feature of “presenting information indicative of a goal in a spreadsheet format, **the goal being associated with a training objective of a student**”. (Emphasis added). For example, the present specification teaches “According to a broad aspect of a preferred embodiment of the invention, a goal based learning system utilizes a rule based expert training system to provide a cognitive educational experience.” (Page 1, lines 30-31.) The Office Action alleges that Purcell teaches “presenting information indicative of a goal in a spreadsheet format (Figs. 7, 15, 19, 22, 34, and 46)”. However, Purcell merely teaches (Column 2, lines 57-64. Emphasis added.)

The present invention develops and displays graphic analyses of entire ranges of hundreds and thousands of what-if possibilities **for an economic plan** in which each possibility is defined in terms of values of economic factors and **goal results**, in graphic-analysis formats that show priorities, trade-offs, alternative routes to higher results for the **goal**, and combinations of factors that represent thresholds of risks.

As taught by the above teaching and suggested by the title “Method and Apparatus for Graphic Analysis of Variation of Economic Plans”, Purcell merely teaches about a goal for analyzing an economic plan. Purcell does not teach the feature of “presenting information indicative of a goal in a spreadsheet format, the goal being associated with a training objective of a student”. Moreover, Purcell does not teach the feature of “integrating information that motivates accomplishment of **the goal** into the presentation model” for at least the reasons discussed above. (Emphasis added.) Cook does not make up for the deficiencies of Purcell, and thus claim 1 is patentable over Purcell in view of Cook.

Similarly, Applicants have amended claim 10 to include “logic that presents information indicative of a goal in a spreadsheet format, the goal being associated with a training objective of a student”. For at least the reasons discussed above, Purcell does not teach or even suggest this feature. Thus, claim 10 is patentable over Purcell in view of Cook.

Claims 2-9 and 11-17 ultimately depend from independent claims 1 and 10. Thus, claims 2-9 and 11-17 are patentable over Purcell in view of Cook for at least the above reasons. Applicants request reconsideration of claims 1-17.

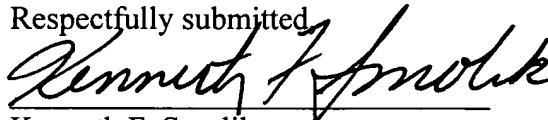
Claim 19, which Applicants are adding, is patentably distinct because claim 19 depends from claim 10.

CONCLUSION

Applicants are adding claim 19, which is supported by the specification as originally filed. All objections and rejections have been addressed. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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